



# Fact Sheet: Media Information, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

UPDATED: October, 2003



## Background

The following information has been compiled to help facilitate visits by the media. The contents of this fact sheet are subject to change at any time. Upon receipt of this fact sheet, contact the JTF-GTMO Public Affairs Officer, LTC Pamela Hart at 011-53-99-5293 ([hartpl@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](mailto:hartpl@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil)) or the Media Relations Office (011-53-99-5017) to confirm your seat on the trip.

## Lodging around NAS Jacksonville, Florida

The following is provided to you as suggestions for you while in Jacksonville. This is not an inclusive list.

- Hotels:

Best Western Hotel	904-264-4466
Holiday Inn	904-264-9513
- Taxis:

Gator City Taxi	904-355-8294
Cititcab	904-425-2222
River City Car Service	904-777-0270
Yellow Cab Co.	904-260-1111

## Travel by Air to GTMO

Media arrive at US Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) via military aircraft from Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida (NAS JAX). Upon arriving in Jacksonville, it is recommended that you take a cab to your hotel. Most hotels close to NAS JAX will offer shuttle service to the base. For security reasons, rental vehicles will not have access to NAS JAX.

- A media escort representative will meet you at the Yorktown (Main) Gate (Highway 17) NLT 6:00 a.m.
- The escort will ensure that you clear security. Make sure to have the proper documentation (a birth certificate with a raised seal or passport) to ensure that you are manifested for the flight.
- Ground rules are distributed and signed prior to leaving NAS JAX.
- The flight departs NAS JAX each **Tuesday** at 9:05 a.m. and arrives at GTMO at 10:55 a.m.
- The flight departs GTMO each **Friday** at 2:00 p.m. and arrives at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads (NSRR) at 3:35 p.m.
- You will proceed from the air terminal NSRR taxi to complete your arrangements to depart Puerto Rico.

## Lodging at Puerto Rico

The following is provided to you as suggestions for use while in Puerto Rico. This is not an inclusive list.

- Hotels:
  - Fajardo Inn: 787-860-6000
  - Conquistador: 787-863-1000
  - Westin Rio Mar: 787-888-6000
  - Embassy Suites: 787-791-0505
  - Wyndam San Juan: 787-791-1000

- Hampton Inn: 787-791-8777
- Taxis:
  - San Juan Airport Shuttle: 787-439-4915
  - Fajardo Taxi Service: 787-865-7444

## Travel on GTMO

- The Public Affairs Office provides all transportation for media during their stay at GTMO.

## Communication – Telephone

- LCN, a private company, provides the telephone communications network.
- Phone communications are purchased in advance, which can be by credit card, cash, personal check, or money order on the day of arrival. (If paying by credit card, have a business card with contact information.)
- The average cost to N. America varies from 38-53 cents per minute, depending on the time of day.
- Calls to Europe vary between \$1.26 - \$1.75 per min.
- Calling cards and prepaid calling cards cost approximately 27 cents per minute in addition to your normal calling card rate, but access lines are limited. (Costs are subject to change.)
- We recommend you bring your personal laptop since computer support is not provided from JTF-GTMO.

## Communication – Satellite

- LCN also provides the satellite communications network. Call Sterling, VA direct at 703-709-7902.
- Satellite time also is purchased in advance, which can be by credit card, cash, personal check or money order on the day of arrival
- The digital uplink connects to satellite GE-4 with transponder 5C.
- The cost is \$800.00 per hour for any portion of that hour, and the cost includes all equipment to uplink to satellite and the satellite segment time.
- You can use a camera or editing equipment to hook into the HPA connection.

## Lodging once you arrive at GTMO

- Lodging is at the Combined Bachelor Quarters (CBQ).
- The suite consists of two rooms with up to two people per room, i.e., four persons per suite (male and females are billeted in separate suites).
- Each suite has a kitchenette, microwave, refrigerator, and common bathroom.
- The cost is \$12.00 per night, per person. All major credit cards are accepted – Visa, MasterCard, and American Express, as well as cash, personal checks and travelers checks.
- Voltage is 115V AC.

## Dining

- You are responsible for covering the costs of your meals. Military dining facilities are available, which offer a wide variety of meals. Breakfast costs \$1.60, and lunch and dinner cost \$3.25.



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## Weather

- Dress for a hot, tropical climate. Hats, sunscreen, lip balm, sunglasses, comfortable shoes and loose-fitting summer clothing are encouraged. Individuals must wear short or long sleeved shirts. Sleeveless shirts are not permitted in the dining facilities at the Naval Base.
- The temperature in the summer months averages well into the 90s with a heat index of over 100 degrees.

## Safety

- Water can be purchased at a local shoppette. It is highly encouraged to consume plenty of water while at GTMO.

## Miscellaneous

- There is a Navy Exchange (NEX) on base where you can purchase souvenirs such as hats, shirts, coffee mugs, etc. We normally arrange a trip to the NEX as time permits.
- An ATM is available at the NEX
- GTMO is on Eastern Standard Time.

San Juan Airport Shuttle: 787-439-4915